



# Department of Justice

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Southern District of Indiana**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **TODD BARKER, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS MANAGER WAYNE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, RECOGNIZED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOCAL CRIME VICTIMS**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

In honor of National Crime Victim's Rights Week, which is April 22-28th, Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, today recognized the efforts of Detective Todd Barker, Criminal Investigations Manager of the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, as a 2007 recipient of the United States Attorney's Carol S. Morris Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Rights of Victims.

This is a special award given annually by the United States Attorney's Office to honor individuals who unselfishly give of their time and effort to better the lives of crime victims in the Southern District of Indiana. It especially reflects the nation's recent heightened awareness of the devastating impact of crime and violence on its victims, while underscoring the importance of helping victims heal and rebuild their lives.

Detective Todd Barker is a twelve-year officer with the Wayne County Sheriff's Office. He was recently appointed to serve as Vice President of JACY House, which is an advocacy center used to conduct forensic interviews of child victims. He serves as the Sheriff's Office liaison with the Child Protection Team and Rapid Action Team, which is activated any time a child is admitted to the hospital and either physical or sexual abuse is suspected.

Detective Barker is dedicated to pursuing perpetrators of abuse and neglect in Wayne County. He is diligent in his pursuit of justice and supporting the rights of victims, especially the community's most valuable and most often vulnerable citizens who have been victimized from abuse or neglect. Todd Barker was nominated for this award by Matt Strittmatter, Wayne County Sheriff, Jean N. Cates, Director, Wayne County Department of Child Services, and Michael W. Shipman, Prosecuting Attorney.

The U.S. Attorney's Award was established in 1991 to recognize those persons who have made significant contributions in the lives of crime victims. National Crime Victim's Rights Week is a time for all Americans to learn about victimization, reflect on the cost of crime to our society, and promote laws, policies, and programs to help victims of crime rebuild their lives. The week's theme, "victims' Rights: Every Victim. Every Time" envisions a strengthened national commitment to the nearly 24 million Americans harmed by crime each year.

During the past three decades, the United States has made dramatic progress in securing rights, protections, and services for victims of crime. Every state has enacted victims' rights laws; law enforcement agencies give victims greater protection; and more than 10,000 victim assistance programs have been established throughout the country.

"We are all diminished when victims go without the protections and help they need," said John W. Gillis, director of the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U. S. Department of Justice. "Anytime a crime is not reported, a witness is intimidated, or an order of restitution is not enforced, we are all less secure. Achieving justice means repairing the harm suffered by all victims of crime."

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Victim Witness Award 07-Barker.wpd

